

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Remand Stakeholder Engagement Process

Kick-off Meeting

September 7, 2012



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Introductions

- **Key Reclamation Bay Delta Office Staff**
 - **Patti Idlof**
 - **Kristin White**
 - **Janice Pinero**
- **Consultants**
 - **Bill McDonald**
 - **Mike Harty**
 - **Gwen Buchholz**

Agenda and Meeting Objectives

- **Objectives**
 - **Establish a Shared Understanding**
 - **Explain key factors**
 - **Next Steps**

Biological Opinion History

- **2008/2009**
 - Reclamation provided BA to Services
 - FWS and NMFS issued jeopardy BOs
 - Reclamation provisionally accepted both FWS and NMFS BOs

- **2011**
 - District court remanded Services' BOs
 - District court ordered Reclamation to complete NEPA

Court-Ordered Deadlines

- **Fish and Wildlife Service**
 - **12/1/13 – FWS issues Final BO**
 - **12/1/13 – Publish Final EIS**
- **National Marine Fisheries Service**
 - **10/1/14 – NMFS issues Draft BO**
 - **4/1/15 – Publish Draft EIS**
 - **2/1/16 – Publish Final EIS**
 - **2/1/16 – NMFS issues Final BO**
 - **4/29/16 – Sign ROD**

Why the RSE Process

- Section 7 process is typically between Action Agency and the Services
- Request for a more open and inclusive process
- Reclamation committed to a more open process
- RSE process formed
- RSE process document

RSE Process Commitments

- **Use a structured-facilitated process that is**
 - **Balanced**
 - **Objective**
 - **Open**
 - **Appropriately transparent**
- **Allow for input by stakeholders**

RSE Process Participants

- **DWR as applicant**
- **Invited Stakeholders**
 - **Water agencies**
 - **Fishing and Environmental interests**
- **Resource Agencies**
 - **FWS**
 - **NMFS**
 - **DFG**

RSE Process Structure

- **Not a “single” meeting table**
- **Management and technical-level engagement**
- **Allows for individual input from each invited stakeholder**
- **Information will be posted**
- **Multiple opportunities for input**

Remand Consultation Package

- Action to be consulted upon
- Updated scientific information
- Updated effects analysis

Action to be Consulted Upon

- Project operations
- Structural modifications to facilities
- Offsetting measures
 - Habitat restoration
 - Other stressors

How to provide your input

- **Use the 2011 Project Description**
 - **Revise the Word version or**
 - **Provide separate comments on pdf version**
 - **<http://www.usbr.gov/mp/BayDeltaOffice/Documents/remand.html>**
- **Provide input by September 21, 2012**
- **Electronic format only**
- **Direction will be provided on how to provide comments**

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Science Review Component

- **Provide input on core scientific issues**
 - Identification of core issues
 - Provide new information and analyses
 - Provide outside science review
- Paper describing process is being developed
- Input on development of paper will be sought

Draft Science Review Paper

- Identification of core scientific issues
- Review of issues by Reclamation retained experts
- Option for independent science review

Major Science Review Issues

- **Schedule constraints**
 - Collaboration vs. input
 - Federal procurement limitations
- **Defining core scientific issues**
- **Selection of Reclamation retained experts**
 - Criteria for selection
 - Association with interested parties
- **Role of Reclamation retained experts**
- **Retained experts vs. independent review**

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How to provide your input

- **Comment on the August 12, 2012 draft**
 - Electronic version will be emailed
 - Revise the Word version or any other format
- **Provide input by September 21, 2012**
- **Email your comments to:**
RemandSEP@usbr.gov

Next Steps

- **Comments due September 21, 2012**
- **Next meeting – October 11, 2012**